GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1931
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2016
Visa Issue at WTO
Rao (Avnthi) Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has filed a case at the World Trade Organisation against the United States" move for steep selective increase in short-term visa fees for professionals;
(b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the time by which India would approach the WTO for setting up a dispute settlement panel in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) and (b): India had consultations with the United States on 11-12 May 2016 at the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Geneva under WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism. India had raised claims on US measures relating to:
i. Fees for L-1 and H-1B visas;
ii. Numerical commitment for H-1B visas.

(c) : The setting up of a dispute settlement panel in WTO involves detailed submissions on legal and factual issues. Necessary preparatory steps are underway.

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